



MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION  
COMMITTEE  
44th session  
Agenda item 2

MEPC 44/2  
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## **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPRC CONVENTION AND THE OPPR CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS**

### **Report of the OPRC Working Group at MEPC 43**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The OPRC Working Group met from 28 June to 2 July 1999, during the forty-third session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee, under the Chairmanship of Mr. T.F. Melhuish (Canada). The Vice-Chairman was Mr. R.J. Calixto (Brazil).

This session was attended by 25 delegations from:

ALGERIA	NEW ZEALAND
AUSTRALIA	NORWAY
BARBADOS	PERU
BRAZIL	PHILIPPINES
CANADA	REPUBLIC OF KOREA
ESTONIA	RUSSIAN FEDERATION
FINLAND	SINGAPORE
FRANCE	SWEDEN
GERMANY	TURKEY
GREECE	UNITED KINGDOM
ITALY	UNITED STATES
JAPAN	VENEZUELA
NETHERLANDS	

and by a representative from the following United Nations Organization:

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

by an observer from the following Intergovernmental Organization:

South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

and by observers from the following non-governmental organizations:

International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF)  
International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA)  
World Nuclear Transport Institute (WNTI)

Representatives from: Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC); and Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre - Wider Caribbean (REMPEITC-Carib.) also attended the meeting.

Documents considered by the Working Group include: MEPC 43/2 (Secretariat), MEPC 43/2/1 (Secretariat), MEPC 43/2/2 (Secretariat), MEPC 43/2/3 (ITOPF), MEPC 43/2/4 (Venezuela), MEPC 43/2/5 (Secretariat), MEPC 43/2/6 (Australia), MEPC 43/2/7 (Canada), MEPC 43/2/8 (France), MEPC 43/2/9 (WMO), MEPC 43/15 (Secretariat), MEPC 43/16 (Secretariat), MEPC 43/16/1 (Secretariat), MEPC 43/16/2 (Secretariat), MEPC 43/INF.4 (Venezuela), MEPC 43/INF.5 (Venezuela), MEPC 43/INF.6 (ROPME), MEPC 43/INF.9 (OSPAR Commission), MEPC 43/INF.17 (Republic of Korea), MEPC 43/INF.20 (Secretariat), MEPC 43/INF.21 (Secretariat) and MEPC 43/INF.22 (Secretariat).

The Chairman welcomed members of the Working Group. He stated that since the last meeting, of the Working Group, six States (Antigua and Bermuda, Israel, Italy, New Zealand, Singapore and Vanuatu) became parties to the OPRC Convention with New Zealand acceding on 2 July 1999, which brings the number of Contracting Parties to 46.

## **1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (MEPC 43/2/1)**

1.1 The Agenda for the OPRC Working Group meeting during MEPC 43, as adopted, is shown at **Annex 1**.

### **Committee Instructions to the Working Group**

1.2 The Committee considered and approved, in general, the Report of the OPRC Working Group's meeting at MEPC 42 (MEPC 43/2) and accepted the Group's schedule of tasks for completion contained in Annex 3 of the Report (MEPC 43/2). The Committee agreed to decide on the target dates for completion when discussing the work programme of the Committee.

1.3 The Chairman recalled those items requiring approval by the Committee at the present session (MEPC 43):

- .1 Draft HNS-OPRC Protocol and Draft Conference Resolutions;
- .2 Preparation of the Diplomatic Conference (HNS-OPRC Protocol);
- .3 Draft Catalogue on Computer Programs and Procedure for Internet Placement;
- .4 Support to Marine Pollution Emergency Response Support System (MPERSS); and
- .5 Directory of relevant centres of expertise.

## **2 DRAFT PROTOCOL ON PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND CO-OPERATION TO POLLUTION INCIDENTS BY HAZARDOUS AND NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES (MEPC43/2/2) - PREPARATION OF THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE**

### **2.1 Draft HNS-OPRC Protocol**

2.1.1 The Delegation of Japan queried the absence of definition of ships in the draft Protocol. It was explained that such definition already existed in the Convention. Given the link between the two instruments a repetition of the definitions was not considered necessary.

2.1.2 No comments were made by the Committee on the draft Protocol during Plenary. No proposals for amendments came from Members of the Working Group. Therefore, the draft HNS-OPRC Protocol remains as was approved, in principle, by MEPC 42 and should be considered as ready for circulation for the diplomatic conference.

## **2.2 Draft Conference Resolutions**

2.2.1 Bearing in mind the comments made by some delegations during the discussions at plenary the Working Group finalized the Draft Conference Resolutions and drafted the Resolution on early implementation of the provisions of Article 10 of the HNS-OPRC Protocol. These Resolutions as developed, were based on the ones adopted by the OPRC Conference and are attached at Annex 2 to the Report of the MEPC 43 (MEPC 43/21).

## **2.3 Preparation of the Diplomatic Conference**

2.3.1 Having noted the approval by the Council for a three-day diplomatic conference to be held in March next year, in conjunction with MEPC 44, the Working Group discussed its preparation and was of the view that this conference might be organized as follows:

- Following the precedent of the conference which adopted the 1973 Intervention Protocol and as agreed at MEPC 42, all States (members and non-members of IMO) should be invited to participate in the conference;
- International organizations and NGOs with observer status with IMO should also be invited to the conference as observers;
- Invitation, together with necessary documents, shall be circulated at least six months before the conference, which means early September this year;
- With the understanding that the financial provisions will be made for three days, the conference should be held in conjunction with MEPC 44, and should start on Thursday, 9 March 2000, finishing Wednesday, 15 March 2000;
- A plenary will consider the organizational arrangements and consider and adopt the provisional HNS Protocol, Resolutions and the Final Act of the conference for signature at the end of the conference;
- In addition to the plenary, it is proposed that the conference establish a Conference Working Group to finalize the drafting work and consider specific matters to be adopted by the conference;
- The plenary should meet on Thursday, 9 March, Tuesday, 14 March and Wednesday, 15 March. The Conference Working Group should meet on Friday, 10 March [Saturday, 11 March, if needed] and Monday, 13 March. This would imply that MEPC 44 will not meet on Thursday, 9 March, but instead will meet the following Monday, 13 March; and
- The financial provisions for the conference envisage that only one team of interpreters will be available during the MEPC 44 and the conference. Accordingly, only the plenary will be provided with interpretation; the Conference Working Group having to work without it.

## **3 COMBATING MANUALS/GUIDELINES**

### **Catalogue of Computer Programs and Internet Information related to responding to oil spills.**

3.1 The Committee noted the consolidated version of the Catalogue of Computer Programs and Internet Information related to responding to oil spills (MEPC 43/2/6), prepared by Australia, and instructed the OPRC Working Group to review the document taking into account the remarks made regarding information of a commercially sensitive nature contained therein.

3.2 The OPRC Working Group agreed that prices of software, and any implied endorsement of a product contained in the catalogue, should be removed and that a disclaimer be included in the final version of the catalogue. Australia has agreed to remove such information and incorporate the following disclaimer

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3.3 The Committee also noted the proposal prepared by the Secretariat for the Internet placement of the catalogue as described in MEPC 43/2/5 and requested the OPRC Working Group to review it taking into account the comments made by Cyprus, supported by United States, regarding the funding of such placement.

3.4 Regarding the placement of the catalogue on IMO's Website, and the accessibility of other websites listed in the catalogue, the OPRC Working Group requested the Secretariat to investigate this matter further, and its financial implications, including possible voluntary contributions, and report to MEPC 44.

#### **Section IV of the Manual on Oil Pollution – Combating Oil Spills**

3.5 The Committee approved the establishment of a correspondence group, composed of OPRC Member States and organizations and its terms of reference, to revise and/or update the various chapters of Section IV – Combating Oil Spills, referred to as the manual, and contained in MEPC 43/2 with New Zealand as the lead country. The Committee instructed the OPRC Working Group to proceed to initiate the work of the correspondence group.

3.6 Prior to the start of MEPC 43 on 25 June 1999, several interested Member States met informally at IMO Headquarters to discuss the revision of the manual, particularly on the work programme and timetable for completion. New Zealand as the lead country, briefed the OPRC Working Group on the outcome of the informal meeting.

3.7 With reference to the informal meeting room paper on the manual submitted by New Zealand for discussion by the OPRC Working Group, the following approved actions will be undertaken by the correspondence group:

.1 Work plan and schedule

- MEPC 44 - submission by lead countries of draft text, chapter by chapter, on the revision of the manual for review;
- MEPC 45 - submission of comments from members of the correspondence group on the revised draft text of all chapters;
- MEPC 46 - submission of a consolidated version of the revised manual to the OPRC Working Group for review/comments; and
- MEPC 47 - submission of a final consolidated version of the revised manual for translation into IMO working languages to enable the Committee to consider, and if it agrees, grant approval for publication.

- .2 The distribution of tasks among the members of the correspondence group is described in **Annex 2**.
- .3 Members of the correspondence group will send the documents relating to the revisions of the chapters of the manual to New Zealand which will be responsible for disseminating the documents through emails.
- .4 Chapter 4 of the manual, Effects of oil on marine and coastal resources, will be jointly revised by the United States and ITOPF.
- .5 Two new subjects – *in-situ* burning and spill response termination considerations will be included in the manual but their placement will be decided at MEPC 44 when the correspondence group has the opportunity to consider the full draft texts.
- .6 An informal meeting of the correspondence group may be held at the time of MEPC 44 to review its work.

### **Fisheries Management During and After an Oil Pollution Incident**

3.8 The OPRC Working Group agreed that, management of fisheries during and after an oil spill is an important issue and recommended that an information document on this topic be published as a joint IMO and FAO publication, as guidance for fisheries management during and after an oil pollution incident.

3.9 ITOPF agreed to prepare a consolidated document for consideration at MEPC 44 which will incorporate the comments of the United States and Australia to document MEPC 43/2/3, submitted by ITOPF. Other members of the Working Group were invited to submit any comments to ITOPF not later than the end of September 1999 to enable submission of the revised draft document to IMO by October 1999.

3.10 The Secretariat agreed to send the draft document to FAO for their comments when it is made available by ITOPF, mindful of the timetable for submission at MEPC 44.

3.11 The Working Group concurred with the suggestion of the United States to share information on fisheries management during and after an oil pollution incident among Member States at MEPC meetings so that others may benefit.

### **Bioremediation**

3.12 With reference to Section IV of the Manual on Oil Pollution and the document MEPC 43/2/8 submitted by France, the Working Group noted the offer of France to prepare a chapter on bioremediation which will be reviewed by the correspondence group on the manual.

3.13 The Working Group agreed that if the submission by France as lead country will be deemed voluminous after the review by the correspondence group, it will be a separate publication on bioremediation. Otherwise, the material will be included in Section IV of the Manual on Oil Pollution.

### **Countermeasures to Spills of Emulsified Fuels**

3.14 The Working Group noted the information contained in the documents MEPC 43/2/4, MEPC 43/INF.4 and MEPC 43/INF.5, submitted by Venezuela, in document MEPC 43/2/7 submitted by Canada and in the informal meeting room paper on the revision of Section IV of the Manual on Oil Pollution.

3.15 Venezuela had expressed their reservation that the OPRC Working Group report at MEPC 42 (MEPC 43/2 paragraphs 3.22-3.24) did not adequately reflect the issues discussed pertaining to emulsified fuels.

3.16 Concerns have been raised by some members of the Working Group on the risk posed by spill of heavy oil, including emulsified fuels which have high density and rapid dispersal characteristic so that it is important to have a precise definition of these products.

3.17 Canada agreed to revise Chapters 2 and 3 of the manual and to look into the definition of these types of emulsified fuels. Canada also agreed to review and incorporate the information that Venezuela has provided on emulsified fuels. Upon revision, Canada will send the draft chapters to the head of the correspondence group, New Zealand, who will transmit the draft and comments made to Venezuela for review and feedback to New Zealand.

3.18 On the response options for heavy oil, including emulsified fuels, the Working Group agreed that such information should be included in the manual but not to any great detail.

3.19 Regarding the proposal to submit a paper on a new chapter on emulsified fuel spills (MEPC 43/2/7), Canada informed the Working Group that this matter is being deferred for discussion until MEPC 44. Canada agreed to further review the information provided by Venezuela with a view to prepare a paper regarding response to spill of emulsified fuels for consideration by the correspondence group on the review of Section IV of the Manual.

3.20 Some delegations expressed concern over the creation of a new chapter dealing solely with emulsified fuels. In this regard, it was acknowledged that there is a whole range of type V and some other oils which are inadequately represented in chapters 2 and 3 of the Manual, pointing to the need that either those chapters, or any new chapter, address the issue of these so-called "non-floating" oils comprehensively.

3.21 Some delegations expressed concern on this type of rapidly dispersing, high density oil and these types of oil with similar behaviour, and stressed the need for the MEPC to consider pollution preventive measures to be applied to the transportation of these types of oils, that in their opinion, the response options in an incident are not well established or are not fully understood at this time.

#### **4 RETRIEVAL OF THE INF CODE MATERIALS IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT**

4.1 The United States delegate informed the OPRC Working Group that they have consulted their INF Code material subject matter experts and it appears that since 1996, there have been no substantive changes in the U.S. research or technology related to INF Code materials retrieval. Therefore, the United States deemed it not practical to submit a paper on this issue for MEPC 43.

4.2 Recognizing the need to make a decision on how to proceed with the revision of the Manual on Chemical Pollution, Section 2: Search and Recovery of Packaged Goods Lost at Sea, the United States delegate referred to the interagency group comprising IMO, IAEA and UNEP which was set up to conduct, as its initial task, a literature review on specific hazards associated with the carriage of INF material and consequence of accidents. Two consultants have been hired to carry out this review.

4.3 Since the scope of the literature review is broad enough so as to cover this topic, the Working Group agreed to hold off making any decision until after the completion of the review, which is expected at the end of this year.

4.4 The Working Group agreed to review the situation at MEPC 44, when the report of the literature review would be available, and take appropriate action as a part of the review of Section 2 of the Manual on Chemical Pollution.

## **5 DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS FOR COMPATIBLE OIL POLLUTION COMBATING TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT (Article 8(4) of the OPRC Convention)**

5.1 The ISO representative informed the OPRC Working Group that ISO/TC 8 SC2 met in Athens, Greece in June 1999, to discuss, among other things, the draft on Standards Terminology Relating to Oil Spill Response which are now being distributed to the national standards organizations. If approved by these organizations, it will become an international standard. The next SC 2 meeting will be held in Bremen, Germany on June 2000.

5.2 ISO also informed the Working Group that other standards on oil spill response equipment, including skimmers, mechanical equipment and oil spill booms are in progress.

5.3 In consideration of the issues raised by the OPRC Working Group at MEPC 42 on co-operation between ISO and IMO concerning the development of standards, the ISO/IMO liaison officer was invited to the OPRC Working Group and briefed the members on the process and procedure of developing standards.

5.4 With reference to the report of the OPRC Working Group at MEPC 42, Australia informed ISO that comments requested on the draft Standards on Terminology to Oil Spill Response were provided to ISO. However, ISO did not accept the comments, as Australia is not a member of SC 2. The ISO representative assured Australia that the comments will be considered.

5.5 Concern was expressed by the Working Group on the procedure of developing standards by ISO in the area of spill response as in most situations in many countries, the government plays a significant role, compared to the industry. Since most of the members of the Working Group are from the governments, there should be closer co-operation between ISO relevant Sub-Committees and the OPRC Working Group in the development of response standards for oil pollution combating techniques and equipment and the dissemination of such information by ISO to the OPRC Working Group.

5.6 The ISO/IMO liaison officer concurred with the wish of the Working Group to have a closer co-operation in the area of pollution combating techniques and equipment, but stressed that it is necessary to take account of the timetable with respect to the development of the standards, particularly on the submission of comments or suggestions, so that these can be considered by the ISO. The ISO Secretary suggested that they can act as liaison between ISO and IMO on issues dealing with the development of response standards. The ISO/IMO liaison officer also strongly encouraged States to remain engaged in ISO activities.

## **6 INTERVENTION PROTOCOL**

6.1 The OPRC Working Group took note of the document MEPC 43/15 prepared by the Secretariat on the development of a directory of relevant centres of expertise to give advice in relation to marine pollution incidents involving HNS.

6.2 The Group noted the presentation by the Secretariat and commented that the draft survey form for the directory of relevant centres of expertise, as annexed to the MEPC 43/15, was quite comprehensive but voluminous in terms of the required information for it to be effectively maintained and updated by the Secretariat. Accordingly, an informal drafting group, chaired by Germany with Australia, Finland, New Zealand and Sweden as members, revised the survey form and, in so doing, was guided by the provisions of the 1973 Intervention Protocol and took into consideration the following assumptions: there are generally two contact points for oil and HNS at the regional and national levels; the directory should be easy to maintain and update; countries to be covered have contingency plans already in place; and in countries where a multi-agency mechanism is in place, there is always one lead agency as contact point.

6.3. Germany introduced the revised survey form to the OPRC Working Group, pointing out that coverage has been extended to include regional bodies which meet the requirement for easy and effective maintenance and updating. REMPEC suggested that human health should be included as an additional item under Part C "area of expertise" of the revised survey form.

6.4. The OPRC Working Group was satisfied with the revised survey form as set out in **Annex 3** and recommends its approval by the Committee for distribution as an MEPC circular to the Member States of the Organization, Parties to the 1973 Intervention Protocol and to the regional centres.

## **7 WMO MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE SUPPORT SYSTEM (MPERSS)**

7.1. The representative of WMO introduced document MEPC/43/2/9 giving full details of the WMO Marine Pollution Emergency Response Support System (MPERSS). The system has been designed to provide a coherent, internationally co-ordinated approach to the provision of meteorological and oceanographic services worldwide, to support marine pollution emergency response operations, no matter where and when they are required. He informed the Working Group that since its inception by the Eleventh Session of the Commission for Marine Meteorology (CMM-XI) in 1993, the system had been revised by CMM-XII (Havana Cuba, 1997), and by a workshop on MPERSS that took place in Townsville, Australia (November 1998). He also indicated that the MPERSS was strongly supported at the recently held thirteenth WMO Congress (Geneva, May 1999).

7.2. The Working Group noted the information provided and in particular that MPERSS followed very closely the distribution of the Area Meteorological Coordinators (AMC) to those of the GMDSS. It was also noted that MPERSS had reached a high level of implementation at the coordination level, of training and preparedness and of trials, both, in exercises as well as in real incident events, and in all of them improving its practical and organizational value with success.

7.3. The Working Group noted further that with a view to enhancing MPERSS implementation specifically in the Mediterranean, and in the context of the ongoing REMPEC work programme, WMO had developed a close liaison with the REMPEC Secretariat and that trials were to be undertaken both in East and Western Mediterranean as a direct result of this collaboration.

7.4. The Group expressed its support for the co-ordination and collaboration between WMO and IMO and in particular REMPEC in the Mediterranean, including the continued conduct of trials involving the AMCs and relevant national and international response authorities.

7.5. The OPRC Working Group recommended that national emergency response authorities should be regularly updated on activities related to the MPERSS through the IMO Secretariat and that information on MPERSS should be periodically made available to the MEPC and the OPRC Working Group.

## **8 TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

8.1. The Secretariat provided a status report on the OPRC training programme in a form of an informal meeting room paper to the OPRC Working Group. The Secretariat drew the attention of the Working Group on some issues related to the delivery of the model training courses, such as the translation of the material into Spanish, the delivery of the course material, the distribution, and requested guidance on these matters.

8.2. The Working Group stressed that the price of OPRC training course materials be reduced significantly from those in Annex 3 to the informal meeting room paper on status report of the OPRC model training courses. This is needed to ensure that countries requiring training on oil pollution response can avail themselves of the materials. The Working Group expressed the view that production of materials should be done "offshore" if significant savings are not available through local production.



8.3 The Working Group emphasized that the training course materials should be made available to institutions and agencies that have been recognized by national authorities as competent to conduct the OPRC courses.

8.4 The Working Group requested the Secretariat to prepare for consideration by the OPRC Working Group at MEPC 45 a report on the status of the delivery of the OPRC model training courses (including the level of demand, its consistency with IMO policy, regarding the publication, and maintaining them up to date). The Secretariat will also identify possible options for the translation of the model courses into Spanish.

## **9 TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION (TC) ACTIVITIES RELATED TO MARINE POLLUTION PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

9.1 In its presentation of this Agenda item, the Secretariat informed the Working Group that document MEPC 43/16 was the second status report on the current ITCP for 1997-1999 and complemented the first one made during the 41st session of the MEPC on the technical co-operation activities that have taken place in the different geographical regions.

9.2 It further highlighted that the marine environment component of the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP) for 2000-2001, as contained at Annex to document MEPC/43/2, is different from that of the current ITCP. The new ITCP is articulated on a regional and global basis to address problem areas common to a particular region or on a world-wide basis.

9.3 The Working Group's attention was drawn to the value of the in-kind support provided to ITCP projects in 1998, including by recipient countries themselves. The Working Group Members were encouraged to continue providing in-kind support, which complements the budgetary requirements of technical co-operation.

9.4 The Secretariat also informed the Working Group that two IMO Regional Presence Offices have already been opened in Nairobi, Kenya and in Accra, Ghana for the Eastern and Southern Africa and West and Central Africa (Anglophone) subregions, respectively. The Working Group was also informed that negotiations were in progress, with the Government of Côte d'Ivoire which offered to host the IMO Regional Presence for the West and Central African (Francophone) subregion.

9.5 The IPIECA representative introduced document MEPC 43/16/1 on the IMO/Industry Global Initiative (GI) for the implementation of the OPRC Convention 1990. In his presentation he highlighted the many achievements of the GI, particularly in the Africa region, which the programme focused on these past three years. He also informed of the decision taken to expand the GI activities to other regions of the world. He concluded that the co-operation between IMO and IPIECA was going in the right direction.

9.6 The delegation of Sweden raised the question of possible GI overlapping with other initiatives and asked IPIECA to share their experience, if any, in avoiding such overlapping. This was being achieved by working with IMO on a global level and the local industry in individual countries.

9.7 The delegation of France recognized the usefulness of the Global Initiative and stressed the need for its promotion by all concerned. In this respect, he referred to the promotional IMO/IPIECA video and CD, which he found an efficient tool to that effect.

9.8 The Brazilian delegation informed the Working Group of the development by his country of a comprehensive programme of activities for the port sector, including both oil and HNS. He further indicated that, in this connection, a formal request for assistance will be sent to IMO sometime in September/October this year.

9.9 Commenting on the announcement by the Brazilian delegation of their important technical co-operation needs, the OPRC Working Group Chairman insisted on the importance of such kind of information to be passed on to the MEPC members, ensuring they appreciate fully the level of technical assistance needs of some of the member countries and act accordingly.

9.10 The representative of the IMO/UNEP Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) described the activities which were carried out during the biennium 1997-98 within the framework of the Protocol to the Barcelona Convention concerning co-operation in combating pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by oil and other harmful substances in cases of emergency.

The activities essentially focused on:

- training at the regional and national levels;
- capacity building at port at the national and sub-regional levels; and
- assistance in case of emergency. Since no major accident occurred, this was mainly directed to keeping the regional system of preparedness and response in a state of readiness through certain activities, specifically in the area of transfer of information and exercises.

9.11 In keeping with the OPRC Convention, the representative of REMPEC underlined the importance the Centre gives to co-operation with the chemical and oil industry and noted that certain components of the main activities actively involved the participation of the industry.

9.12 The representative of REMPEC also mentioned that the tenth meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in November 1997 adopted a resolution on a regional strategy on prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships. This Resolution also required that the Protocol be amended to introduce the necessary legal provisions. The same meeting also decided that the objectives and functions of REMPEC be amended accordingly. A first meeting was held in November 1998 to consider the revisions specifically related to prevention. The outcome was presented to the meeting of REMPEC's focal points, which agreed that the opportunity should be taken to achieve a more extended revision and modernization of the legal text of the Protocol. Preparatory work has been undertaken and a second meeting is envisaged for the end of this year.

9.13 In keeping with the implementation of the regional strategy on prevention of marine pollution by ships in the Mediterranean and in anticipation that the revised Protocol will contain the necessary legal provisions, a project prepared by REMPEC was submitted to the European Commission, D.G.7 within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership dealing with port reception facilities for collecting ship-generated garbage and oily wastes.

9.14 The Chairman invited the representative of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to say a few words on the Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme (PACPOL).

9.15 The SPREP representative reported on the PACPOL covering its aim, organizations and countries involved, its duration and the projects to be implemented under the programme.

9.16 The Working Group noted the projects for implementation during the period from 1999 to 2001 with funding from C-SPODP II (US\$660k) and in-kind support from various partners:

- An initial three-year engagement of a national from a Pacific island country as Marine Pollution Project Officer;
- Completion of a marine pollution risk assessment for the region;

- Development of a regional marine spill contingency plan (PACPLAN);
- Assistance to countries to develop national marine spill contingency plans;
- Holding of an annual regional workshop, including train-the-trainers course in marine spill response (based on IMO model course);
- Regional marine spill response exercise (desk-top scenario);
- Regional PACPOL coordination meeting. The first workshop was held in Fiji in December 1998 with seed-funding from IMO - ITCP project H03 RAS/97/309;
- Establishment of a regional marine pollution surveillance programme; and
- Marine pollution education and awareness-raising targeting the foreign fishing fleet.

9.17 In addition, the following two projects will be carried out during 1999/00 with seed-funding from IMO and in-kind support from SPREP, SPC and other sources. These are:

- Development of marine pollution legislation for Pacific island countries (consistent with IMO conventions) - ITCP project H03 RAS/97/310;
- Review of ships' waste reception facilities in Pacific island ports - ITCP project H03 RAS/98/317.

9.18 The Chairman invited the representative of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre-Wider Caribbean (REMPEITC-Carib) to give an overview of the developments and activities of the Centre in the Wider Caribbean Region over the last four years. In his presentation the representative of REMPEITC-Carib focused on the following:

9.19 Since the start of the Centre in June 1995, REMPEITC-Carib. continually assisted States and Territories of the Wider Caribbean Region to implement the Protocol to the Cartagena Convention concerning Co-operation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean and the OPRC Convention, as a contribution to the sustainable development of the marine environment.

9.20 States and Territories of the Wider Caribbean Region appreciated the operational approach of the Centre and the achievements that have been realized.

9.21 Special attention was drawn to the formal institutionalization of the Centre later this year and the initiatives of the MOU Partners for an organizational and financial structure for the Centre in the future. Furthermore, regarding the co-operation with the oil industry, several Members of the OPRC Working Group expressed their appreciation on the work of REMPEITC and their support to the initiative for the development of a sustainable Regional Centre in the Wider Caribbean Region.

## **10 POLLUTION PREPAREDNESS, CO-ORDINATION AND SUPPORT UNIT (Article 12 of OPRC Convention)**

10.1 In considering this item, the Working Group noted the following:

- (a) The OPRC Working Group, as a result of the on-going obligations of the Organization under the OPRC Convention, covers a broader scope than other IMO Working Groups. It is a forum where matters pertaining to the implementation of the OPRC Convention and response to oil and HNS are dealt with and experience shared by Member States, between regional agreements and between Governments and industry. It is the body which

promotes technical co-operation through the preparation of manuals, guidelines, and model courses which are a support for assisting countries implementing the OPRC Convention. The importance of its work makes it imperative that proper arrangements are made regarding its status.

- (b) The number of signatories to the OPRC Convention is increasing, including a significant number of countries in need of assistance for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention. The spirit of the Convention in general and Article 12 in particular, make the role of the Secretariat as a clearing house in respect of the OPRC Convention different from its role in respect of other Conventions. This, added to the adoption in the very near future of the HNS Protocol, will increase the pressure on the Secretariat, hence the need for dedicated resources to staff a Pollution Co-operation and Support Unit.

10.2 The Working Group recognized that the two issues related to the OPRC Working Group and the Pollution Co-ordination and Support Unit were distinct but very much interlinked. Both of these two issues need to be addressed if IMO is to achieve its objective in building up the capacity of those countries in need of assistance to prepare for, and to respond to, marine pollution emergencies.

## **11 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**

11.1 The Working Group reviewed their work programme and agreed on the schedule of tasks and target dates for completion thereof as shown at **Annex 4**.

## **12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

12.1 Under this agenda item, the Working Group was provided with information on the successful oil removal operations from two oil tankers sunk off the south coast of the Republic of Korea. Following these major oil spills caused by the two tankers, which sunk, one in 1995 and the other in 1997, the Korean Government decided to recover the remaining cargo and fuel oil on board the vessels estimated to equal over 2000 tons all together. This operation, which later happened to be extremely difficult, was successfully completed in 137 days by the Korean Marine Pollution Response Corporation.

12.2 The relevant document MEPC 43/INF.7 was introduced by the Korean delegation, which described the operation principle and method of the oil removal carried out by the Korean Government in 1998.

12.3 The Working Group thanked the delegation from the Republic of Korea for sharing such valuable information and for their generous offer to provide further information on the operation, on request.

## **13 CONSIDERATION OF REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE**

13.1 The Working Group, as requested, provided an interim report at MEPC 43 (MEPC 43/WP.7). The Committee at its 42nd session took action on certain issues contained in this report and which are reflected in the Committee's report (MEPC 43/21), as listed below:

- 1 HNS-OPRC Protocol;
- 2 HNS-OPRC Protocol Conference Resolutions;
- 3 HNS-OPRC Protocol Diplomatic Conference;
- 4 Catalogue of Computer Programmes;
- 5 Directory of Centres of Expertise;

6 WMO Marine Pollution Emergency Response Support System (MPERSS); and

7 Obligations of the Organization under the OPRC Convention.

13.2 The report was adopted for submission to the Committee.

**Action requested of the Committee**

13.3 The Committee is invited to approve the report in general and to approve the schedule of tasks and target dates for completion of activities for 2000-2001 as described in **Annex 4**.

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## ANNEX 1

### AGENDA FOR THE OPRC WORKING GROUP MEETING DURING MEPC 43 (28 June - 2 July 1999)

- 1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
- 2 DRAFT PROTOCOL ON HAZARDOUS AND NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES  
Draft Resolutions which might be considered for adoption by the International Conference on the HNS Protocol
- 3 COMBATING MANUALS/GUIDELINES
  - (a) Catalogue of Computer Programmes and Internet Information related to Responding to Oil Spills
  - (b) Marine Pollution Manual Section IV - Combating Oil Spills
  - (c) Manual on Bioremediation
  - (d) Guidelines for fisheries management during and after an oil pollution incident
  - (e) Guidelines for responses to spills of emulsified oils
- 4 RETRIEVAL OF THE INF CODE MATERIALS IN THE EVENT OF AN INCIDENT
- 5 DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS FOR COMPATIBLE OIL POLLUTION COMBATING TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT (Article 8 (4) of OPRC Convention)
  - (a) Review work of the International Standards Organization (ISO)
  - (b) Recommend procedures and processes to be followed for improving co-operation between IMO and ISO
- 6 INTERVENTION PROTOCOL
  - (a) Directory of centres of expertise
- 7 WMO MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE SUPPORT SYSTEM (MPERSS)
- 8 TRAINING PROGRAMMES
  - (a) Review status of OPRC model course implementation
  - (b) Consider national or other organizations to assist in delivery of the training programme
- 9 TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION (TC) ACTIVITIES RELATED TO MARINE POLLUTION PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
- 10 POLLUTION PREPAREDNESS, CO-ORDINATION AND SUPPORT UNIT (Article 12 of OPRC Convention)
- 11 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME
- 12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS
- 13 CONSIDERATION OF REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE

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## ANNEX 2

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE CORRESPONDENCE GROUP

Correspondence Group for the revision of Section IV - Combating Oil Spills  
Distribution of tasks among members of the Group.

Delegation	Chapters/subject	Contact Details
New Zealand	Chapter 1 –Introduction Lead Country	David Crawford Divisional Manager, Marine Environment Protection Maritime Safety Authority Tel: 644 473 0111 Fax: 644 473 1245 e-mail: <a href="mailto:david.crawford@msa.govt.nz">david.crawford@msa.govt.nz</a>
Canada	Chapter 2 –Types of Oil Chapter 3 – Fate of Oil Spills in the Marine Environment. Chapter 10- Practical Training and Equipment Maintenance and Storage In-situ burning also Emulsified Fuels	Douglas McCleary Director of Environmental Response Canadian Coastguard Tel: 1 613 990 7011 Fax: 1 613 996 8902 e-mail: <a href="mailto:mcclearyd@dfo-mpo.gc.ca">mcclearyd@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</a>
ITOPF	Chapter 4 – Effects of Oil on Marine and Coastal Resources Chapter 5 –Situation Evaluation and Response Options Chapter 11 - Clean-up Cost Consideration Termination	Richard Santner ITOPF Tel: 44 171 621 1255 Fax: 44 171 621 1783 e-mail: <a href="mailto:central@itopf.com">central@itopf.com</a>
Germany	Chapter 6 - Containment and Recovery of Oil	Captain Bustorff Waterways & Shipping Directorate North Tel: 49 431 339 4756 Fax: 49 431 339 4348 e-mail: <a href="mailto:ubustorff@wsd-nord.de">ubustorff@wsd-nord.de</a>
Sweden	Chapter 6 - Containment and Recovery of Oil	Thomas Fago Head of Response Division Swedish Coast Guard Headquarters Tel: 46 455 353 455 Fax: 46 455 10521 e-mail: <a href="mailto:thomas.fago@coastguard.se">thomas.fago@coastguard.se</a>
France	Chapter 7 - Chemical Dispersion Bioremediation	Christophe Rousseau Deputy Director CEDRE Tel: 33 2 98 33 10 10 Fax: 33 2 98 44 91 38 e-mail: <a href="mailto:cedre@ifremer.fr">cedre@ifremer.fr</a>
Australia	Chapter 8 - Shore-line Clean-up	Ray Lipscombe AMSA Tel: 612 2 6279 5929 Fax: 612 2 6279 5076 e-mail: <a href="mailto:ray.lipscombe@amsa.gov.au">ray.lipscombe@amsa.gov.au</a>

Delegation	Chapters/subject	Contact Details
Denmark	Chapter 8 - Shore-line Clean-up	Ivan Anderson Danish Environmental Protection Agency Tel: 45 3266 0450 Fax: 45 3266 0479 e-mail:
United Kingdom	Chapter 9 - Disposal of Oil and Oily Debris	Kevin Colcomb MPCU Tel: 44 (0) 1703 329409 Fax: 44 (0) 1703 329440 e-mail: <a href="mailto:colcomb@mcagency.org.uk">colcomb@mcagency.org.uk</a>
USA	Chapter 4 - Effects of Oil on Marine and Coastal Resources	John Meehan US Coast Guard Headquarters (6-MSO-4) Washington, DC 20593 Tel: 202 267 2714 Fax: 202 267 4690 e-mail: <a href="mailto:jmeehan@comdt.uscg.mil">jmeehan@comdt.uscg.mil</a>
Venezuela	Emulsified Fuels	Luis E. Diaz Monclus Permanent Representative of Venezuela to IMO Tel: 44 171 387 0695 Fax: 44 171 916 1155 e-mail: <a href="mailto:omiven@armada.mil.ve">omiven@armada.mil.ve</a>
Peter Taylor		Peter Taylor Global Initiative Consultant Tel/fax: 44 1234 576459 e-mail: <a href="mailto:pmtaylor@osrl.co.uk">pmtaylor@osrl.co.uk</a>

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**ANNEX 3****MEPC CIRCULAR****SURVEY FORM FOR A DIRECTORY OF RELEVANT CENTRES OF EXPERTISE ON OIL  
AND HAZARDOUS NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES**

1 In 1977, a list of individual experts was issued as MEPC/Circular 48 in accordance with the provisions of Article IV of the International Convention Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties, 1969 and its 1973 Protocol relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Marine Pollution by Substances other than Oil. During the forty-first session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), the circular was deemed obsolete and it was agreed that a new list of experts is required.

2 At its forty-second session, the Committee examined the merit of the approach to have information concerning relevant expertise available as referring to capabilities already existing in Member States, other international organizations and/or organizations having consultative status with the International Maritime Organization rather than individual experts which is an unsustainable procedure over the long term.

3 The Committee agreed in principle with the proposal to develop a directory of relevant centres of expertise under the Intervention Protocol covering both oil and hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) rather than a list of individual experts.

4. This circular is issued to request Member States, Parties to the 1973 Intervention Protocol and regional bodies to provide information on relevant centres of expertise for responding to maritime casualties involving oil pollution and HNS which will be developed into a directory to replace MEPC/Circ. 48.

**SURVEY FORM FOR A DIRECTORY OF RELEVANT CENTRES OF EXPERTISE  
ON OIL AND HAZARDOUS AND NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES**

**PART A: ON OIL**

**GENERAL REQUEST**

Regional Body/

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/

Institution/ \_\_\_\_\_ Acronym \_\_\_\_\_

Agency

Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Country Code

Area Code

Number

Telefax: \_\_\_\_\_

Telex: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUEST IN CASE OF EMERGENCY (*24 hours contact points*):**

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Telefax: \_\_\_\_\_

Telex: \_\_\_\_\_

Language: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/

Institution/ \_\_\_\_\_ Acronym \_\_\_\_\_

Agency

Other conditions, procedures and comments

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PART B: ON HNS**

**GENERAL REQUEST**

Regional Body/

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/

Institution/\_\_\_\_\_ Acronym \_\_\_\_\_

Agency

Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Country Code      Area Code      Number

Telefax: \_\_\_\_\_

Telex: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUEST IN CASE OF EMERGENCY (24 hours contact points):**

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Telefax: \_\_\_\_\_

Telex: \_\_\_\_\_

Language: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/

Institution/\_\_\_\_\_ Acronym \_\_\_\_\_

Agency

Other conditions, procedures and comments

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PART C: AREA OF EXPERTISE\*** (Please tick as appropriate):

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>OIL</b>	<b>HNS</b>
1. Maritime Law/Legal Advice		
2. Risk Evaluation		
3. Salvage		
4. Response		
5. Human Health		
6. Wildlife		
7. Fisheries		
8. Claims and Compensation		
9. Others (Please specify)		

\*Regional body/Country contact point will refer the requesting Party to the agency with relevant expertise.

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## ANNEX 4

**SCHEDULE OF TASKS AND TARGET DATES FOR COMPLETION 1999 - 2001**  
**Revised in July 1998**

**Section I - Ongoing Functions Supporting the Implementation of the OPRC Convention**

<b>1 Overview of Organization Functions and Activities (Art. 12, Resolution 3)</b>  <i>(a) Information Services</i> <i>(b) Education and Training</i> <i>(c) Technical Services</i> <i>(d) Technical Assistance</i> <i>(e) Co-ordination</i>
<b>2 OPRC/IMO Training Strategy and Programme Implementation</b> (a) OPRC Model Courses (Review/Implementation)
<b>3 Overview of Development and Implementation of OPRC Technical Co-operation Programme<sup>1</sup> including the IMO/Industry Global Initiative</b>
<b>4 Promotion of R &amp; D in Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response</b>
<b>5 Overview of Regional Co-operation and Work of Other Organizations</b>

**Section II - Specific Project Tasks**

<b>Task</b>	<b>MEPC 44 March 2000</b>	<b>MEPC 45 October 2000</b>	<b>MEPC 46 June 2001</b>	<b>MEPC 47 June 2002</b>
<b>1 Finalize instrument to Expand OPRC Convention to Hazardous and Noxious Substances Protocol:</b>  <i>a) Protocol and its implementation</i> <i>b) Resolutions</i>				
	<b>HNS Protocol Conference</b>	<b>Follow up to the HNS Protocol Conference</b>	<b>Follow up to the HNS Protocol Conference</b>	
<b>2 Reviewing/Upgrading Combating Manuals/Guidelines</b>				
<i>a) Manual on Chemical Pollution – Section 2 – Search and Recovery of Packaged Goods Lost at Sea<sup>2</sup> (including Retrieval of INF Code materials</i>				

<sup>1</sup>The Technical Co-operation Programme is only considered at odd numbered MEPC meetings.

<sup>2</sup>Any revision will be deferred until the literature review carried out on INF code material is completed.

<b>Task</b>	<b>MEPC 44 March 2000</b>	<b>MEPC 45 October 2000</b>	<b>MEPC 46 June 2001</b>	<b>MEPC 47 June 2002</b>
<i>b) Catalogue on computer programmes for oil spill response<sup>3</sup></i>				
<i>(1) Website application</i>				
<i>c) Marine Pollution Manual Section IV – Combating Oil Spills</i>				
<i>d) Bioremediation</i>				
<i>e) Guidance material for fisheries management during and after an oil pollution incident: ITOPF</i>				
<i>f) Response to spills of emulsified fuels</i>				
<b>4 Compatibility Standards<sup>4</sup></b>				
<i>a) Review of ISO standards</i>				
<b>5 Intervention Protocol</b>				
<i>a) List of substances - review criteria</i>				
<i>b) Directories of centres of expertise</i>				

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<sup>3</sup>Lead delegation - Australia

<sup>4</sup>Review progress of International Organizations on Standards (ISO) on pollution response .